

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/049,649
Response dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of **March 8, 2004**

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are in the application wherein claims 9 and 10 stand allowed; claim 7 is indicated as containing allowable subject matter; and claims 1 to 6, 8 and 11 to 14 stand rejected on prior art with claims 1 to 6, 8 and 11 to 14 being rejected as anticipated by JP 4-276352 and claims 1 to 6 being also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hasegawa, et al.

The comments made by the Examiner in the Office Action have been considered and, pursuant thereto, claim 1 is rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, specifying that the engaging piece has an extending part in the thickness direction of the metallic sheet material for adjusting clearances to the side edges of the engaging hole. (See particularly element 69c shown in Fig. 11c of the drawings).

It is respectfully submitted that neither the Japanese '352 reference, nor Hasegawa, et al. disclose the foregoing feature of claim 4 which is now incorporated via dependency in all of claims 1 to 3, 5, 6 and 8. On the contrary, neither of the cited references disclose apparatus consisting of an offset sheet metal piece cooperating with engaging holes as the engaging pieces 62 of the slider of the invention engage the grooves 16 in the frame to enable horizontal movement while restricting vertical movement. Also, the engaging pieces 42 of the Japanese reference and 36 of Hasegawa, et al. are distinguished from the claimed elements because these are not formed by offsetting parts of the sheet metal material by bending but, instead, are pins that are riveted, or otherwise attached, to the respective sliders.

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In accordance with the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims 1 to 3, 5, 6 and 8, as amended, are clearly patentable over the references and consequently should be allowed together with previously allowed claims 9 and 10 and claim 7, which has been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.. Early notification of allowance is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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